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From: Commanding Officer, USS LEXINGTON (AVT-16) ✓
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Subj: COMMAND HISTORY (1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1984)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.13C

Encl: (1) Command History
(2) Pertinent press clippings

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosures (1) and (2) are submitted as this command's history record of 1984.

PAUL M. PERAN

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09BH)
CINCLANTFLT
COMNAVAIRLANT

BASIC HISTORY

1. Command History

Commanding Officer

CAPTAIN HAROLD J. BERNSEN

23 June 1983 - 14 December 1984

CAPTAIN PAUL M. PERAN

14 December 1984 -

The USS LEXINGTON, homeported at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL, is the only Aviation Training Carrier in the U.S. Navy. Basic, advanced and fleet pilot qualifications comprise the primary mission of the ship. LEXINGTON is under the operational control of the Chief of Navy Air Training and the administrative control of Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

2. Summary of operations, events

18 January - 30 January	Conducted carrier qualifications in Key West and Pensacola operating areas.
19 January	The Mayor and City Council of Key West toured the ship.
18 February	Supply Department won the Blue E. Enclosure
17 February	Celebrated the Ship's 41st Birthday.
21 February 9 March	Conducted carrier qualifications in Key West operating area.
24 February	Lexington recorded the Quarter Million Catapult shot on the starboard catapult. Enclosure
1 March - 3 March	Port visit to Fort Lauderdale. More than 8500 people visited the ship during her port call.
26 March - 6 April	Conducted carrier qualifications in Key West operating area.
4 April	A-7E BUNO 156841 assigned to VA-122 was lost at sea following an arrestment and brake failure. The pilot ejected and was recovered without injury.
10 April	Vice Admiral Dunn, Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic, visited the ship. Enclosure
30 April - 2 May	Twentieth Century Fox and Alan Landsburg Productions were on board shooting a 15 minute pilot for NBC. Enclosure
3 May	Vice Admiral Schoultz, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air Warfare) visited the ship.
14 May	Captain and crew of the El Cano visited the ship.

18 May In the spirit of Pensacola's annual historic five flags celebration, Deluna and his court visited the ship.

7 June Rear Admiral Wellman, Inspector General U.S. Atlantic Fleet, visited the ship.

11 June - Conducted carrier qualifications in the Corpus Christi and Pensacola
20 June Operating Areas.

13 June TA-4J BUNO 158904 from VT-22 experienced a power failure during CARQUAL OPS and was lost at sea. The pilot ejected and was rescued without injury.

20 June Former crew members of Carrier Air Group 16, Kent Cushman, Warren McLellan, Norman Sterrie and Selbie Greenhalgh visited the ship. Enclosure

9 July Over 1,000 dependents and guests were aboard for Lexington's annual Dependent's Day Cruise.

10 July - Conducted carrier qualifications in the Corpus Christi and Pensacola
28 July operating areas.

12 July HH46A BUNO 152542 assigned to HC-16, flying a plane guard mission experienced engine failure and was lost at sea. USS Lexington motor whale boat crew responded immediately recovering three of four crew members. The other crew member was recovered by Helo.

11 August - Conducted carrier qualifications in the Corpus Christi and Pensacola
29 August operating areas.

16 August - OPPE Team certified the Lexington safe to steam.
18 August

20 August Governor Bob Graham conducted a work day on Lexington. Enclosure

23 August - Port visit to the New Orleans World's Fair. Lexington was the guest
27 August and center attraction for over 25,000 fair visitors during her stay. Enclosure

17 September - Conducted carrier qualifications in the Corpus Christi and Pensacola
28 September operating areas.

28 October - Enroute to Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for an eight month overhaul.
1 November

15 November Lexington crew conducted Project "SHARE LOVE". Enclosure

14 December Captain Harold J. Bernsen USN, was relieved by Captain Paul. M. Peran, USN, as Lexington's Commanding Officer. Enclosure

3. Special topics. Statistical summary:

Catapult Shots	10,468
Arrested Landings	10,456
Embarked Guests	500
Visitors	72,000